

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Beginning with page 2 of the Office Action, the Specification was objected to as not providing proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter "auxiliary data field". The affected claims, namely claims 1 and 6, stand rejected for the same reason. In response, to obviate this rejection, the offending language has been changed to, in the case of claim 1, -- data demarcated by tags -- or -- tagged data --, and in the case of claim 6, -- data field --. Support for this amendment can be found in the Specification as filed, including the paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5, as well as the first full paragraph on page 5. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Turning now to the art rejections, the claims stand rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,707,580 issued to Bloomfield ("Bloomfield '580"), which is based on a continuation application of PCT IB/97/01455 filed October 7, 1997. Applicants' respectfully disagree with the rejection, for the following reasons.

Beginning with claim 1, a system for transferring data received from a fax device over a telephone line is recited. A computing device executes a program that includes a function which reads tagged data received with an incoming fax transmission, and a function that causes information from the tagged data to be inserted into a from-field of an email message. A portion of the fax image that has been converted from the incoming fax transmission is to be routed to an email address via the email message. Bloomfield '580 does not teach or suggest such a system.

In Bloomfield '580, the information and data used to populate the "fields" 282, 286, 290, of the header portion 276 of the email message, as well as other information, is all information and data received by the fax-server 110 during steps 1034 and 1036 of the process described in Figs. 11A and 11B. In Fig. 11A, after the fax communication channel has been initialized and an incoming call has been received by the fax-server 110, an acknowledgement is sent back to the sender fax interface device, and fax interface device ID and the recipient's email destination address, as well as optional

sender IDs are received. Only then will operation proceed with the flow in Fig. 11B, where if the fax interface ID is correct, a further acknowledgment is sent back to the fax sender device which commands the sender to “press send button on fax device”. Only then will the fax data be received by the server 110.

In other words, the fax data in Bloomfield ‘580 is sent separate from, and after various commands, interface IDs, and email addresses have been received. Accordingly, this does not teach or suggest that a telephone line interface receive an incoming fax transmission sent with data demarcated by tags, where a function is to read the tagged data that has been received with the fax transmission, and where information from the tagged data is to be inserted into the from-field of the email message.

Thus, since Bloomfield ‘580 does not teach or suggest a computing device that executes a program that includes a function which reads the tagged data received with an incoming fax transmission, and causes a portion of a fax image that has been converted from a fax transmission to be routed to an email address, with information from the tagged data being inserted into a from-field of the email message, the rejection of claim 1 is improper.

Turning now to claim 5, this claim is also not anticipated, because Bloomfield ‘580 does not teach or suggest a computing device that includes a function which converts a fax image (that has been converted from an incoming fax transmission) into a computer readable format, and extracts header information from the fax image, where a look up operation is performed using the header information to derive an email address. Bloomfield ‘580 in Fig. 11A depicts a flow diagram where after a fax communication channel has been initialized, an incoming call from a separate, fax interface device has been answered by a server, and an interface device ID, recipient email destination address, and sender ID are then received. Thereafter, the sender presses a button which initiates the transmission of the fax data. This, however, does not teach or suggest the capability of the computing device in Applicants’ claim 5. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 5 as being anticipated is improper.

Claim 6 has been amended to recite that the incoming fax transmission has a data field, and the computing device is to insert information from the data field into a from-field of an email message in which the portion of the fax image is to be routed. In Bloomfield '580, upon completion of the entry of the recipient email address, the sender presses the "GO" button on the keypad, to begin a process whereby the interface device 106 interacts with the fax-server 110 of the gateway 104 to **forward the received email address and to pre-condition the gateway system for delivery of the fax image data** from the fax device 106. After an acknowledgement has been received by the interface device, the sender is instructed to "press send button on fax device." Thus, in Bloomfield '580, any sender identifying information, if at all sent, is sent in a separate transmission than the fax image data. This does not teach or suggest that an incoming fax transmission has a data field where a computing device is to insert information from the data field into a from-field of an email message in which a portion of the fax image is to be routed.

Turning now to claim 8, this claim stands rejected as being anticipated by Bloomfield '580, where at page 9 of the Office Action, which refers to Fig. 5, 11A of Bloomfield '580 for "information and data used to populate the 'fields' 282, 286, 290, of the header portion 276, as well as the text 300 and link data 297 of the body portion 280, as well as the informative data found in the textual portion 299 is all information and data received by the Fax-Server 110 during step 1034 and 1036 of the process described below (see Fig. 11A) and/or generated at step 1074 of the process (see Fig. 11C), and is that information and data which constitutes the message portion 272 of the E-mail message 270 depicted in Fig. 4)". Applicants, however, respectfully disagrees that Bloomfield '580 teaches a function executed by a computing device which extracts header information from a fax image, where a received fax transmission has been converted into the fax image, and performs a loop operation using the header information to derive an email address. That is because steps 1034 and 1036 of Bloomfield '580 recite how a server receives a fax interface device identifier and an optional sender identifier from the fax interface device, separate from the subsequent transmission of the fax data (which occurs in steps 1058, 1060, in Fig. 11B). The separate transmissions do not teach or suggest the system of claim 8 where an incoming fax

transmission is to be received that includes a data field, the fax transmission is converted into a fax image, and a function reads the data field received with the fax transmission.

Although the Office Action at page 10 points to Figs. 1, 4, 5, and 11A of Bloomfield '580 as allegedly teaching a telephone line interface that receives an incoming fax transmission including a data field from a sender, Applicants respectfully submit that this is an incorrect interpretation of Bloomfield '580. As explained above, in Bloomfield '580 there are two separate transmissions, one from the fax interface device sending identification data, and subsequently (if acknowledged by the server) another transmission sending the fax data. This does not teach or suggest that a fax transmission include a data field from a sender, which data field will be read so that sender's return information taken from this data field is then inserted into a subsequent email message. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 8 is respectfully requested.

Any dependent claims not mentioned above are submitted as not being anticipated or obvious, for at least the same reasons given above in support of their base claims.

CONCLUSION

In sum, a good faith attempt has been made to explain why the rejection of the claims is improper, and how the claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance referring to claims 1-13, as amended here, is therefore respectfully requested to issue at the earliest possible date.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No.

02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR, & ZAFMAN LLP

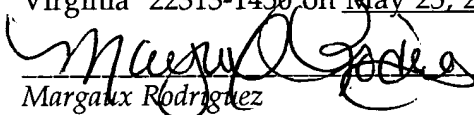
Dated: May 25, 2005.

By 
Farzad E. Amini, Reg. No. 42,261

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025
(310) 207-3800

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, Post Office Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on May 25, 2005.


Margaux Rodriguez May 25, 2005